

D 9990

Subject: William B. Carine

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Ming.No. 323/40.

"B"
B'Well

April 28th.,

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MURDER OF W.B. CARINE (BRITISH).

At 9.22 a.m. 28/4/40 a telephone message was received from an unknown foreign lady reporting a shooting affray in Crescent Avenue, off Yu Yuen Road.

A party of police under D.I. Tabrum attended and found on arrival that a British Subject by name William B. Carine had been shot by two unknown male Chinese.

The shot man, who appeared to be dead at the time of the arrival of the police party, was conveyed to the Country Hospital by S.M.C. emergency ambulance but was examined and pronounced dead on arrival by the Resident Medical Superintendent Dr. J.E. Bowen.

The location of the scene of the offence is on a small bridge crossing the Ts Yu Pang (自由溪) Creek on Crescent Avenue, which is a private road belonging to the Imperial Chemical Industries (China) Ltd. located on the south side of Yu Yuen Road. The bridge in question is about two hundred yards south of Yu Yuen Road and immediately north of it is a footpath running east to west along the banks of the creek.

On the south side of the bridge and about 100 yards south is a further footpath which runs along the creek bank in front of the I.C.I. quarters compound.

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Miss. No. 323/40.

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The deceased was found lying on the east side of the bridge, about 3 yards from the north bank. He was on his back with his head pointing to the south.

A close search of the vicinity was conducted but no empty cartridge cases could be found.

The deceased occupied a very small room in the servants quarters of the compound and a search of this by detectives and Mr. K.A. Cooke of the I.S.I. Ltd., discovered various documents establishing the identity of the deceased as:-

William Dlythe Carine, British
Born 24 June 1887 at Port Erin,
I.O.M. Married.

He was at one time employed in the Chinese Maritime Customs but for some time prior to August 1937 was without steady employment.

At the latter end 1937 he secured a position as a private watchman in Crescent Avenue with the I.C.I. and he resided in the compound but his wife Le Ping Carine and his daughter Julia Elizabeth Carine reside together at 52 ^{AVENUE} Huakoo Road.

They were located and brought to the station where they were closely questioned but could offer

Miss No. 323/40.

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no information that might throw any light on the reason for the murder. Miss Carine did state, however, that the deceased had several times had trouble with members of the S.C.G.P.B. when, in accordance with instructions from his employers, he had endeavoured to stop them using the Crescent Avenue as a short cut from Yu Yuan Road to the country either side.

Enquiries conducted by detectives in the vicinity succeeded in locating three witnesses, of whom the more important is one Wan Yung Fah (王永發), aged 10, residing in a wooden hut in West Ts Yu Pang (西自由漢), a few yards east of the bridge in Crescent Avenue.

He states that at about 9.20a.m. 23/4/40, whilst he was playing outside his home, he saw the deceased step two male Chinese, one dressed in a gray long gown and the other in foreign clothing, who were proceeding South to North over the Crescent Avenue Bridge. Some words passed and the man wearing the long gown pulled out a pistol from beneath his gown and fired one shot at deceased. The man wearing foreign clothes then also produced a pistol and fired two shots at deceased. They then decamped north

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along Crescent Avenue turning east into the West Ts Yu Pang, firing two more shots as they ran.

A very similar account of the affair is given by one Zee Too Kung (錢土根) a gardener employed in the I.C.I. compound, who states that the pistols used appeared to be Mausers.

The remaining witness Lee Vung Tsung (李文常) also a gardener, did not witness the actual shooting but saw the assassins decamping.

To time of making this report no other information of value is to hand.

All officers concerned were informed and D.O. and D.D.O. "B" and C. of P. attended the station.

Special Branch informed. *British Military informed.*

Inspector Wang Dau Tswan (王道仔) of S.C.G.P.B. attended the station and was given particulars of the case.

Mr. C.H. Haines, British Court Coroner, was informed and arranged to attend and have the body, which is at present in the mortuary of the Country Hospital, identified at 9.30a.m. 29/4/40.

A point which may be of interest is that deceased, according to his wife and daughter, had a very poor knowledge of Chinese.

Sen. D. I. 1/4.

H. A. Young
D. S. I.

Wan Yung Fah (垣永發)

Tientsin

D.S.I. Chu Chi Huang

Bell Stn.

28/4/40

D.S.I. Chu Chi Huang.

My name is Wan Yung Fah, age 10, native of Tientsin, residing in a wooden hut in West Ts Yu Fang, a few yards East of the bridge of the Crescent Avenue.

At about 9.20a.m. 28/4/40, whilst I was playing outside my home, I saw the foreign watchman of the Crescent Avenue stop two male Chinese, one of them dressed in a grey colour long gown and the other in foreign clothing, who were proceeding along Crescent Avenue from South to North on the bridge. After being stopped, the man wearing long gown pulled out a pistol from under his gown and fired one shot at the foreign watchman. The other wearing foreign clothing also produced a pistol and fired two shots at the foreigner. After which they decamped and they fired two more shots as they were decamping. They ran North along Crescent Avenue and turned into West Ts Yu Fang, passing my home and disappeared into S.C.G.P.B. territory.

(Sgd.) Wan Yung Fah.

Zee Too Kung (錢士根)

Shanghai

Clerk Sih Chien Sih
translated

H'Well Sta.

28/4/40

~~xxxxxxx~~ Clerk Sih Chien Shih.

My name is Zee Too Kung, age 26 years, native of Shanghai, married, gardener employed at the Imperial Chemical Industries, Crescent Avenue, residing at No.6 Hou Kya Zah off Avenue Haig.

At about 9.20a.m. 28/4/40, while I was making a bamboo-shed in the garden of House No.5 Crescent Avenue, together with another gardener named Lee Vung Tsung, I saw the approach of a foreign watchman from South to North. I said to him in English "To day is very hot" and he replied "Yes", after that he walked North. After not more than one minute, I heard one shot fired and the foreign watchman shouting "O-o-o-o" which was followed by several more shots. I turned my head and saw two Chinese males, one wearing black short clothing, armed with a long barrelled pistol, fire one more shot at the foreign watchman who was lying facing the ground while the other, also armed with a long barrelled pistol, was picking up something from the ground, after which they run into the East Ts Yn Pang Village. The scene of the shooting was about 20 yards away from the place where I was standing. The arms carried by the 2 men appear to be mausers.

(Signed & Crossmarked) Zee Too Kung.

Lee Vung Tsung (李文宗)

Shanghai

Clerk Sih Chien Shih

B'Well Stn.

28/4/40

translated

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Clerk Sih Chien Shih.

My name is Lee Vung Tsung, age 28 years, native of Shanghai, married, gardener, residing at Kyung Kya Hoong off Kiacehow Road.

I am a temporary gardener employed at the Imperial Chemical Industries, Crescent Avenue. At about 9.20 a.m. 28/4/40, when I was making a bamboo-shed in the garden of House No.5 Crescent Avenue together with another gardener named Zee Too Kung, I saw the foreign watchman coming out. (from the compound). About one minute later, I heard several shots fired outside and the foreign watchman shouting. When I turned my head, I saw two male Chinese running away into East Te Yu Pang Village. The scene of the shooting was about 20 yards away from the spot where I was standing.

(Crossmarked) Lee Vung Tsung.

APR 29 1940

British Subject Murdered By Two Chinese Gunmen

Mr. William B. Carine, Caretaker In West Area, Killed By Thugs' Bullets

Elderly Employee Of I.C.I. Was Approaching Two Chinese Trespassers When Both Produced Pistols And Fired At Point-Blank Range

CHINESE ESCAPE AFTER COLD-BLOODED MURDER; INQUEST OPENS TO-DAY

Alone, unarmed and while doing his duty, Mr. William B. Carine, a 53-year-old British subject, was shot dead in cold blood by two armed Chinese gunmen in Crescent Avenue, off Yu Yuen Road, at 9.20 o'clock yesterday morning, just after he had begun to interrogate them as to the reason for their presence on that private road belonging to the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Seeing the two suspicious-looking Chinese trespassing in the lane, Mr. Carine, who was caretaker of the I.C.I. residential property on Crescent Avenue, questioned them, and, according to Chinese eye-witnesses, had only said a few words when the trespassers drew their pistols and fired three shots at him. He fell mortally wounded and died before he reached the Country Hospital.

Mr. Carine was a native of Port Erin, Isle of Man, and had been a sailor in the merchant marine and an employee of the China Maritime Customs before he was engaged by the I.C.I. about two and a half years ago as caretaker of their property at Crescent Avenue, just opposite the Hollywood Gardens on Yu Yuen Road.

Mr. Carine was an elderly man and entirely without means of self-defence, when the gunmen committed this cowardly and cowardly murder. He leaves behind a wife and a daughter here in Shanghai.

Police Investigating

The Shanghai Municipal Police are making all inquiries to try to bring these two murderers to justice, but they are handicapped by the fact that Crescent Avenue and the surrounding area is in Chinese territory. A party of police was sent to the scene directly in the morning, but Mr. Carine was found already beyond human aid. An ambulance was sent for and he was rushed to the Country Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

An inquest on the body will open this morning at the Country Hospital, when the body will be identified before H. M. Coroner, Mr. C. H. Haines.

The gunmen escaped into the surrounding "badlands" area after committing the crime, and late last night no arrests had been made, nor suspects detained. There appears to be no motive for the crime; just an over-readiness on the part of the gunmen to draw and use their pistols. They were probably afraid the caretaker

would detain them for trespassing and, therefore, cut short the argument by drilling his body with lead. The Chinese were armed with Mauser pistols and one fired two shots and the other one. All three bullets lodged in the deceased's body.

Scene Of Murder

Crescent Avenue is a private road belonging to the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and it leads from Yu Yuen Road to a large compound, where there are several large houses, owned by the I.C.I. and dwelt in by senior members of the I.C.I. staff here. At the entrance to the compound is a little room, where the caretaker sits and keeps the property under observation.

On the lane, leading from Yu Yuen Road to the compound, is a bridge about 200 yards from Yu Yuen Road, and it was on this bridge that the murder took place. The Chinese were crossing the lane by a public footpath over a bridge spanning a small creek, called Ts Yue Pang. Mr. Carine made it his practice to question Chinese now and then when they crossed the private drive. He was doing this yesterday, when he met his untimely and violent death.

Although Mr. Carine spent a large part of his time in the caretaker's hut, his home was at 52, Hwakes Avenue, where his wife and daughter live. Mr. Carine came to Shanghai many years ago as a merchant sailor. He left his ship and settled in Shanghai. He had a job in the Customs for a while and was unemployed for a time. Finally he obtained the I.C.I. caretaker's job at Crescent Avenue

about two and a half years ago, and had been doing his duty quietly and regularly ever since. He was quiet by nature and although the police used to call him "Jock," he never spoke much to any of them.

When he first came to Shanghai, Mr. Carine married. He has one daughter, Miss Julia Carine, who is employed at the Nederlandsch Indische Bank.

Cartridges Found

The three cartridge cases of the bullets fired by the Chinese were picked up by the Police on the bridge and are being kept for ballistic examination. The Police officer in charge of the case is Detective Sub-Inspector S. A. Young, of Bubbling Well Police Station.

When he met his death, Mr. Carine was dressed in plain civilian clothes and not in caretaker's uniform. The Chinese, according to eye-witnesses from houses nearby, were dressed one in foreign and one in Chinese clothes.

Although Chinese reports state that Mr. Carine was a bodyguard of Mr. G. A. Haley, one of the newly-elected British Councillors of the S.M.C., this is incorrect. Carine was caretaker of the I.C.I. estate, and Mr. G. A. Haley was only one of the directors of the I.C.I. who happened to live on this estate.

Casual police opinions of the murder were that it was criminal and entirely purposeless. It was un-premeditated and a waste of a life, and the pity is that gangsters should have such easy access to pistols and ammunition that they are ready to shoot anyone who asks them a question.

No date had been set yesterday for the funeral.

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APR 29 1948

Briton Shot Dead At I.C.I. Garden

**Mr. W. B. Carine Attacked
By Chinese Gunmen in
Crescent Avenue**

Mr. William Blyth Carine, 53-year-old Briton, was shot and fatally wounded by two unidentified Chinese gunmen in Crescent Avenue, off Yu Yuen Road, at 9.20 o'clock yesterday morning. The murderers escaped by running into the "badlands."

Mr. Carine, who was employed as caretaker of the Imperial Chemical Industries property in Crescent Avenue, was attacked when he challenged the two Chinese as they were about to cross the small bridge there, on their way to Yu Yuen Road. Crescent Avenue is a private road, and the men were trespassing.

Resenting the challenge, one of the Chinese, dressed in a grey long-gown, pulled a military Mauser pistol from under his clothing and fired one shot at Mr. Carine at close range. The other intruder, who was wearing a foreign-style suit, likewise drew a large Mauser, and fired twice. Their victim, who was unarmed, dropped to the ground mortally wounded. He died shortly afterward in the Country Hospital, where he was taken by ambulance.

The assassins turned quickly and ran into extra-Settlement territory where they had no difficulty in escaping. When, later, police were called from the Bubbling Well Station no trace was left of the pair.

Mr. Carine, a native of the Isle of Man and a veteran of the Great War in which he served in the Royal Navy, had only recently been engaged to look after the I.C.I. property in Crescent Avenue. He was formerly employed by the Chinese Maritime Customs, at Bowloon, Kwangtung, and elsewhere. He leaves a widow and a daughter, in Shanghai.

APR 29 1946

Briton Murdered In Badlands

Caretaker For I.C.I., W. B. Carine, Slain By Two Terrorists

Terrorism flared anew in Shanghai yesterday, when Mr. William Blythe Carine, British caretaker of the Imperial Chemical Industrial, Ltd., compound, was shot and killed in cold-blood in the Badlands.

The 53-year-old Briton was slain by two Chinese who drew their pistols and brutally pumped bullets into him after he had ordered them from the compound, situated on Crescent Avenue off Yu Yuen Road. Rushed to the hospital in an ambulance, he died before arriving there.

At about 9:20 a.m., the two assassins approached the I.C.I. premises, which are near to the Hollywood gambling den. Mr. Carine challenged them, according to police reports, and told them that it was private property, and that if they crossed, they were trespassing. Finally, he ordered them to leave.

Deliberately Fires

At this time, the terrorist in the van calmly and deliberately reached for his pistol, and fired at point-blank range. Then the second man also drew his gun, and leveling it at the caretaker, pulled the trigger several times. The shots sped home; Mr. Carine slumped to the ground, mortally wounded.

The killers then escaped without difficulty into the Badlands, no assistance being offered by several bystanders who were attracted by the sound of the shooting.

When detectives of the Bubbling Well Police Station arrived on the scene a few minutes later, no trace of the men could be found. The caretaker was sped away in an ambulance to the Country Hospital, but succumbed before any assistance could be given him.

Served In Navy
Mr. Carine, an old China hand,

is survived by his Chinese wife and a daughter. Born on the Isle of Man, he served in the British Navy during the first World War, later came to China and was connected with the Chinese Customs in Kowloon. He had been employed as caretaker here for less than a year.

Police admitted last night that there were few clues to work on for the apprehension of the killers. The reports of the various eye-witnesses were said to be rather garbled. Motive for the crime is unknown, but it was pointed out that the gunmen must have had the single immediate objective of slaying the caretaker, since the action was so deliberate.

The home of Mr. G. A. Haley, member of the Shanghai Municipal Council and of the board of directors of the I.C.I., is close by, at 15 Crescent Avenue, and observers recalled the attempted murder of Mr. G. Godfrey Phillips, secretary and commissioner-general of the S.M.C., in January. Mr. Haley refused to comment yesterday on the killing of the caretaker.

Bombing Attack

On Saturday morning, terrorists had struck in the bombing attack of the press room of the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, in which an Annamite policeman and a pedestrian had been killed by the gangsters. Three workers inside the press room were injured when two hand-grenades exploded, but no appreciable damage to the property was done. Four pedestrians were also wounded by stray bullets in the swift gun-battle between the terrorists and the police.

As a result of the attack, another armored car was stationed beside the Evening Post building, and the number of guards was doubled, while the armored car stationed across from THE CHINA PRESS was turned about so that its gun commanded the entrance to the building.